

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02141 231409Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06
IO-13 /100 W
-----231654Z 096417 /41

R 231225Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7794
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2141

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YS, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAIT'S POLICY TOWARD PDRY

1. MFA UNDERSEC RASHID AL-RASHID INFORMED AMB. APRIL 21
THAT GOK WOULD RECEIVE VISIT FROM PDRY PRESIDENT ALI APRIL 26.
ALI WOULD BE COMING TO SEEK CERTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FROM GOK WHICH HAD BEEN CUT OFF WHEN HE CRITICIZED KUWAIT
DURING SPEECH DELIVERED TO THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT
COLOMBO.

2. RASHID AL-RASHID PROVIDED THIS INFO DURING MEETING IN
WHICH NEA/ARP DEPUTY DIRECTOR COUNTRYMAN PARTICIPATED. HE
EXPLAINED FOR COUNTRYMAN'S BENEFIT THAT GOK WAS PURSUING
ACTIVE POLICY TO TRY TO COUNTER SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SOUTH
YEMEN. KUWAIT SOUGHT TO DO THIS BY SUPPORTING VARIOUS
INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS AND BY
BUILDING MOSQUES TO EMPHASIZE ROLE OF ISLAMIC RELIGION IN
THAT COUNTRY. COST OF SUPPORTING UNIVERSITY ALONE REACHED
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02141 231409Z

KD2-1/2 MILLION PER YEAR (US\$3.50 - KD1). KUWAIT BELIEVED
THAT THE BEST WAY TO COUNTER COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY WAS BY
OPPOSING IT WITH ANOTHER IDEOLOGY, NAMELY, ISLAM. GOK
UNDERTOOK DELIBERATE STEPS SUCH AS BUILDING NEW SCHOOLS IN
SAME VICINITY AS SCHOOLS BUILT WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE.
THEY DID NOT SEEK TO AVOID ARGUMENTS WITH PDRY GOVERNMENT
AUTHORITIES IN APPLICATION OF THEIR POLICY AND OFTEN

THREATENED PDRY AUTHORITIES TO PUBLISH VIA KUWAIT PRESS
AND RADIO ANY GOVERNMENT OBJECTIONS TO THEIR EFFORTS.

3. RASHID AL-RASHID REPORTED THAT HE WAS THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
OF GOK AUTHORITY WHICH APPROVES FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR
ARAB PENINSULA COUNTRIES, I.E., NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN,
OMAN AND BAHRAIN. THIS AUTHORITY GIVES KD12 TO KD13 MILLION
ANNUALLY TO THESE FOUR COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: AL-RASHID WAS RATHER PROUD OF KUWAIT'S QUIET
POLICY EFFORTS TO RESIST THE COMMUNIZATION OF SOUTH YEMEN.
HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED THAT THE SAUDIS WERE NOW
BEGINNING TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD PDRY AND
BELIEVED THAT THESE EFFORTS WOULD EVENTUALLY BEAR FRUIT. IN
ANY EVENT, AL-RASHID SEEMED CONVINCED THAT COMMUNISM WOULD
NOT BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT BASE IN ADEN AND
SAID HE HAD WARNED THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR BLUNTLY, WITH
RESPECT TO ANY POSSIBLE INTEREST THEY MIGHT HAVE IN SOUTH
YEMEN, THAT CUBA SHOULD KEEP ITS NOSE OUT OF ARABIAN
AFFAIRS.
MAESTRONE

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